Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Nancy Floreen

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NEWS RELEASE

FLOREEN TO PARK SERVICE: KEEP BEACH DRIVE OPEN ON WEEKDAYS

Councilmember Nancy Floreen, joined by Council colleague Howard Denis, today introduced a resolution to put the County Council on record against limiting vehicular traffic on Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park during weekdays.

The National Park Service is developing a General Management Plan for Rock Creek Park, including proposals to change traffic patterns on Beach Drive in Montgomery County. Alternatives include recommendations such as imposing HOV restrictions, closing Beach Drive from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm on weekdays, closing sections of Beach Drive permanently to vehicular traffic, or maintaining the status quo. The deadline for public comment is July 15, 2003.

"Use and appreciation of Rock Creek Park should be available to everyone," said Councilmember Floreen, who chairs the Transportation & Environment Committee. "Significant parts of Beach Drive are already closed on weekends to improve and increase recreational opportunities in Rock Creek Park.

"Mid-weekday is often the only time people whose limited mobility requires vehicular access to the park, such as seniors,

(more…)

individuals with disabilities, parents with young children, or tourists can drive through Rock Creek Park for enjoyment. Proposals restricting weekday driving on Beach Drive, often the only time many individuals can enjoy the park, are inherently unfair to a large number of our residents.

“Montgomery County is encouraging commuters and other drivers to travel in off-peak hours when roads are less congested. Closing Beach Drive at 9:30 am would discourage those who can travel during this later hour.

“And restricting vehicular traffic on Beach Drive during the work week will divert large numbers of cars, overburdening adjacent residential streets and other north-south roadways.”

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